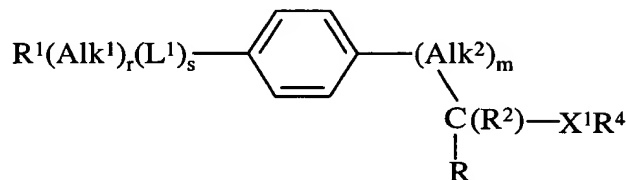


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1a):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid;

~~R¹ is an optionally substituted~~ a pyridyl group substituted by one or two halogen atoms;

~~-(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s- is a -CH₂O- or -CON(R⁵)- group;~~

~~Alk¹ is an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted chain selected from L²CH₂-, CH₂L²CH₂-, L²(CH₂)₂-, CH₂L²(CH₂)₂-, (CH₂)₂L²CH₂-, L²(CH₂)₃-, and (CH₂)₂L²(CH₂)₂-, where L² is selected from the group consisting of O-, S-, C(O)-, C(O)O-, C(S)-, S(O)-, S(O)₂-, N(R⁵)-, CON(R⁵)-, OC(O)N(R⁵)-, CSN(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)CO-, N(R⁵)C(O)O-, N(R⁵)CS-, S(O)N(R⁵)-, S(O)₂N(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)S(O)-, N(R⁵)S(O)₂-, N(R⁵)CON(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)CSN(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)SON(R⁵)-, and N(R⁵)SO₂N(R⁵)-;~~

R⁵ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

~~L¹ is O-, S-, C(O)-, C(O)O-, C(S)-, S(O)-, S(O)₂-, N(R⁵)-, CON(R⁵)-, OC(O)N(R⁵)-, CSN(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)CO-, N(R⁵)C(O)O-, N(R⁵)CS-, S(O)N(R⁵)-, S(O)₂N(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)S(O)-, N(R⁵)S(O)₂-, N(R⁵)CON(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)CSN(R⁵)-, N(R⁵)SON(R⁵)-, or N(R⁵)SO₂N(R⁵)-;~~

~~r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;~~

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X¹ is a group selected from -N(R³)CO-, (where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R³)SO₂-, -N(R³)C(O)O- or -N(R³)CON(R^{3a})- (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R⁴ is ~~an optionally substituted C₁₋₆aliphatic, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkenyl, C₇₋₁₀bicycloalkyl, C₇₋₁₀tricycloalkyl, C₇₋₁₀bicycloalkenyl, or C₇₋₁₀tricycloalkenyl group~~ a straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl group;

~~and the salts, solvates, hydrates or N-oxides thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original) A compound according to Claim 5 wherein -(Alk¹)_r(L¹)_s- is a -CONH- group.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk² is -CH₂-, m is an integer 1, and R² is a hydrogen atom.

8. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X¹ is a -NHCO-, -NHSO₂-, -NHC(O)O- or -NHCONH- group.

9. (original) A compound according to Claim 8 wherein X¹ is a -NHCO- group.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 1 wherein R⁴ is an ~~optionally substituted~~ a straight or branched C₁₋₄alkyl, ~~cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl~~ or adamantyl group.

12. (currently amended) A compound which is:

N-Isopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Cyclopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Acetyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates or N-oxides thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

14-19. (canceled)

20. (new) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R¹ is a pyridyl group substituted by one or two chlorine atoms.